17. The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said active ingredient is active in an aqueous environment and wherein said article is water-dispersible, water-disintegrating or water-soluble.

18. The elastic article according to claim 16 wherein said matrix comprises a glass transition temperature (Tg) of below about 50°C.

19. The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said matrix comprises an elastic modulus of less than bout 1 $GN.m^{-2}$.

A1 20. The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said stabilizing agent comprises a foam stabilizing agent.

21. The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of: cleaning product ingredient, fabric care ingredient, pharmaceutical ingredient, cosmetic ingredient, enzyme, surfactant, brightener, dye, suds suppressor, bleach, bleach activator, fabric softener, fabric conditioner, antibacterial agent, effervescence system and mixtures thereof.

22. The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said active ingredient comprises an enzyme and wherein said stabilizing agent comprising an enzyme stabilizing agent.

23. The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said polymeric material comprises a water-soluble polymer.

24. The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said article is in the form of a particle having a volume mean particle size of from about 50 to about 4000 microns.

25. The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said article comprises a relative density of from about 0.05 to about 0.9.

26. The elastic article according to claim 16, wherein said matrix forms a series of closed and open cells, wherein the ratio of closed cells to open cells is at least 1 to 1.

27. A process for producing an elastic article, said process comprising the steps of
    a. obtaining a mixture of a polymeric material and a plasticiser;
    b. chemically or physically introducing a gas into said mixture;

c. prior to, simultaneous with or subsequent to step (b), contacting an active ingredient with said mixture;
d. prior to, simultaneous with or subsequent to step (c), contacting a stabilizing agent with said mixture; and
e. shaping the articles of the resultant mixture

wherein one or more of the steps (a) to (e) are followed or accompanied by the removal of at least a portion of water.

28. The process according to claim 27, wherein said active ingredient is contacted with said stabilizing agent prior to said active ingredient being contacted with said mixture of polymeric material and plasticiser.

29. A method of delivering the elastic article of claim 16, said method comprising the step of delivering said active ingredients to an aqueous environment, said active ingredients selected from the group consisting of: detergent active ingredients, enzymes and mixtures thereof and wherein said aqueous environment is wash water.

30. A method of using the elastic article of claim 16, said method comprising the step of incorporating said elastic article into a composition selected from the group consisting of: cleaning composition, fabric care composition, personal care composition, cosmetic composition, pharmaceutical composition and mixtures thereof.

31. The method according to claim 30, wherein an active ingredient is incorporated into the composition, said active ingredient selected from the group consisting of: enzymes, perfumes, surfactants, brighteners, dyes, suds suppressors, bleaches, bleach activators, fabric softeners, antibacterial agents, effervescing systems and mixtures thereof.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place the present claims in condition for allowance. WHEREFORE, entry of the amendments provided herewith, and allowance of Claims 16 to 31, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Case CM2415M- Preliminary Amendment